

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough consideration given the subject application. Claims 1-17 have been canceled and claims 18-41 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujikawa et al. (US Patent No. 6,445,428). This rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-17.

The Examiner rejected claims 18-41 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujikawa et al. (US Patent No. 6,445,428) in view of AF2A-2E (Applicant's Figures 2A-2E). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 18 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 18 recites a combination of elements including a buffer layer on the ohmic contact layer; a pixel electrode on the buffer layer; source and drain electrodes connected with the pixel electrode on the buffer layer.

Claim 28 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 28 recites a combination of elements including forming a gate insulating film, a semiconductor layer, an ohmic contact layer, and a buffer layer on the gate electrode; forming a pixel electrode on the buffer layer; forming source and drain electrodes on the buffer layer.

None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these features of the claims.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Fujikawa et al. fails to disclose forming the passivation layer on the pixel electrode and a common electrode on the passivation layer. The Examiner relies on AF2A-2E to cure the deficiencies of Fujikawa et al. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the pixel electrodes 29, 39 in Fujikawa et al. is

not formed on the layer 27d referred to by the Examiner as the buffer layer and that AF2A-2E do not teach or suggest a buffer layer.

The prior art references when combined fail to teach or suggest all the features of claims 18 and 28. Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and request that the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Moreover, claims 19-27 and 29-41 are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on claims 18 and 28, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7371.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated December 12, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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